

## DORMITORY GROUND-BREAKING

IMSA, August 11, 1986

I think I have participated in a lot of ground-breaking ceremonies. In 1968, I watched them dig the first shovel for the creation of Fermilab -- eighteen years ago. You wield a ceremonial shovel and go about your business and before you know it -- a building exists and you say -- "my God, where did the time go?" But it isn't the building that we are breaking ground for today -- it's the institution; the I.M.S.A. and it is here -- within this volume of space, in middle America -- that we will make history -- that legends will be told and retold about how IMSA began -- about how its first class had to rough it -- how primitive were the Macintoshes and IBM PC's and the CRAYS that the students were forced to use -- how easy the science was but how hard it seemed. I think it is crucial that we be very sensitive to the fact that we will be part of legends -- the beginnings of a dramatic evolution of science education -- a response born in the prairie to the alarms sounded in Washington and throughout the nation.

Somewhere in this space over our heads there will soon be walls and cots and desks and computers -- and there will be the students of IMSA and if they are similar to other gifted students they will be discussing the mind boggling problem

assigned in integral calculus or algebraic topology. Others ✓  
 will be playing chess and some of them will be deep in  
 discussions of their concerns about the world. If we do things  
 right -- they will be aware of what we really expect of them --  
 to be creative <sup>scientists</sup> ~~students~~ -- yes. To be superb engineers -- of  
 course. To be brilliant neurosurgeons and research the origins  
 ✓ of life and aging. To advance the technology of Artificial  
 Intelligence and <sup>R</sup>robotics -- to help our industries compete in  
 an evermore challenging environment -- all this! But we expect  
 more -- we want to cultivate an awareness of the social and  
 political deeds required of them -- of the fact that our  
 technological civilization grows increasingly vulnerable --  
 that we have yet to find a cheap, non-polluting source of  
 energy, that our ozone layer is shrinking alarmingly under the  
 impact of fossil fuels, that various vital minerals and ores  
 are becoming more difficult to find and that only 1/4 of the  
 world's population is enjoying the benefits of the technology  
 that produces these problems -- that new diseases like  
 Legionnaires and AIDS keep cropping up to baffle us -- that we  
 live under the constant threat of total world catastrophe in a  
 nuclear war -- and that the only hope of being able to solve  
 these and other awesome problems lies in the creative human  
 mind -- properly nourished, confident, encouraged to let  
 imaginations soar...this is what we are putting in place -- in  
 the space above our heads today. And one day, the future  
 inhabitants of the space here will return to this place as

alumni -- they will be scholars and scientists, engineers and businessmen, musicians and healers, perhaps even politicians. You can be sure they will return because of the seminal experiences they will have had, in this space here -- and seeing them, we will really know what a good thing it is that we did on August 11, 1986 and we will also think -- "my God, where did the time go?"